



DEDICATION  
OF THE  
MEDFIELD TOWN HALL.

Sept. 10, 1872.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



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TOWN HALL, MEDFIELD, MASS.

Dedicated Sept. 10, 1872.

Destroyed by Fire Jan. 8, 1874.



# PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

## DEDICATION

OF THE

## TOWN HALL, MEDFIELD,

SEPTEMBER 10, 1872:

WITH SUPPLEMENT CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXERCISES AT THE RE-DEDICATION, NOVEMBER 21, 1874; BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE CHURCHES OF THE TOWN AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY; AND A RECORD OF THE SOLDIERS FURNISHED BY THE TOWN IN THE LATE WAR OF THE REBELLION.



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MEDFIELD:  
PREPARED AND PRINTED  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN.

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GEORGE H. ELLIS, PRINTER,  
7 TREMONT PLACE,  
BOSTON.

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## PREFACE.

At the Annual Town Meeting, March 3, 1873, a Committee was appointed to collect, revise, and print the several Addresses made at the Dedication of the Town Hall, September 10, 1872, the Committee consisting of J. M. R. EATON, GEORGE H. ELLIS, and GEORGE CUMMINGS. Efforts were made at once to carry out the wishes of the town, but it was not till near the time the Hall was destroyed by fire that all the papers were received. After the fire, the Committee decided to await further instruction from the town before giving the papers to the press. As the result of this delay, we are enabled to give, in a Supplement, the proceedings at the Dedication of the second Town Hall.

By an informal vote of the town, we also insert a brief sketch of the several churches, from their organization to the present time, together with the names of the pastors who have served them.

There will also be found, at the close of this little volume, a record of the soldiers in the War of the Rebellion from the town of Medfield.

At his own request, George H. Ellis has been excused from serving on this committee.

J. M. R. EATON,  
GEORGE CUMMINGS.



## ORDER OF EXERCISES.

The Order of Exercises at the Dedication was as follows:—

### MUSIC.

MEDFIELD CORNET BAND, WM. R. SMITH, Leader.

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Rev. C. C. SEWALL, President of the Day.

Delivery of the Keys and Papers, by CHARLES HAMANT, Esq., and  
Reception of the Same, by J. B. HALE, Esq., in behalf  
of the Citizens of the Town.

### DEDICATORY PRAYER.

Rev. J. M. R. EATON.

### SINGING.

MEDFIELD CHORAL UNION, WM. R. SMITH, Conductor.

### ADDRESS.

ROBERT R. BISHOP, Esq., of Newton, a native of Medfield.

### MUSIC.

REMARKS FROM OTHERS PRESENT.

## SINGING.

An Ode written by the REV. C. C. SEWALL.

We meditate the former days  
And mem'ries of the dead,  
While here we lift the voice of praise  
To Him, whose Spirit led

Our fathers to this goodly place,  
Whose worth they did not know ;  
And here upheld them by his grace,  
When press'd by savage foe.

What they endured, historic page  
Transmits with truthful care ;  
And we the goodly heritage  
In peace and safety share.

One loyal son \* — to birthplace true —  
Though dead thus speaks to-day :  
"The gift you take will oft renew  
A debt you cannot pay

"Save, only, if your souls be fired  
With gen'rous, manly zeal  
To consecrate — all I desired —  
Its use to *public weal*.

"A bond of union let it be,  
Winning all hearts to peace ;  
From all dissensions keep you free,  
And your best strength increase.

"So, while the years shall onward roll,  
Peace be the spirit here ;  
The fix'd resolve of ev'ry soul  
To make that peace more dear.

"The heritage you now possess,  
Far richer, then, will be ;  
Your homes the smile of God will bless ;  
Your hearts from pains be free."

## BENEDICTION.

Rev. JAMES H. WIGGIN.

\* George W. Chenery, donor of the Hall. Died June 26, 1866.

## PUBLIC SERVICES.

At half-past one o'clock in the afternoon, Sept. 10, 1872, the Hall was filled with citizens and invited guests from abroad. After music by the Medfield Cornet Band, Mr. ISAAC FISKE, in behalf of the Trustees, introduced Rev. C. C. SEWALL as President of the day.

ADDRESS OF REV. CHARLES C. SEWALL.

*Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

I congratulate you upon the occurring of this much desired and long deferred occasion. I congratulate you that we are assembled to receive, and by formal act take possession of, this costly and beautiful structure—the noble and generous legacy of a native of this place. He was cut down, as you know, by insidious and fatal disease, in the midst of an active, useful and honorable manhood, while yet the enjoyments, promises, and hopes of life were fresh and full in his possession; but with a noble sentiment of loyalty to the place of his birth and home, and a strong desire for its embellishment and prosperity, he bequeathed a large part of his estate to three confidential friends, in trust, to be by them appropriated and expended, according to his wishes, for the erection of this building; thus leaving a memorial of himself, which it should be our pride to guard with

sacred care, and an example which it should be the ambition of all, especially of our young men, to imitate, by a watchful regard for the public welfare, and by zealous endeavors to promote it.

Having finished their work in discharge of the solemn trust confided to them, the trustees are now about to surrender the noble gift of our benefactor into the keeping of the citizens of Medfield, and we are here to dedicate it, by appropriate services, to the only use and purpose for which it was designed.

Permit me, then, in the place which I occupy at your request, to say, very briefly, that the occasion demands of us the grateful recognition and acknowledgment of the magnitude and worth of the gift we are about to receive, and of the noble sentiment which prompted it; the recognition and acknowledgment, also, of the fidelity with which the trust committed by our benefactor to his friends has been fulfilled, and the work of their agents, the architects of the building, performed. And that all this is to be supplemented by our solemn dedication of the building to its only proper and intended purpose; to the better accommodation of the citizens of this place in discharge of their municipal obligations and duties; to the calm, conscientious, and careful consideration of whatever events may occur or propositions be offered, affecting the best interests of the town; to the delivery of useful, instructive, literary, and scientific lectures; to the culture and practice of the beautiful art of music; to whatever shall best tend to promote the intellectual and moral growth, and the rational enjoyment and recreation of the people;—excluding, absolutely and forever, whatever shall plainly have tendency to foster habits of thoughtless levity, of useless or injurious expenditure of time and money, or of bold irreverence for those principles and institutions upon the permanence of which must ever depend the peace and safety, the morals and happiness of the community.



Let the voice of fierce and angry contention, of political or personal crimination and recrimination, never be heard within these walls. Let them never be desecrated by any base pandering to vicious tastes and desires ; by derision or denial of the origin and authority of our holy religion, or by any irreverent allusion to those truths, principles, and practices, the observance of which is, and must ever be, of vital importance to the character and the happiness of all classes of the community, and especially to the safety of the susceptible and forming minds of the young amongst us.

Consecrated to high and worthy ends, let them stand a sacred memorial of the noble qualities of that heart which caused them to be erected. Let them stand a perpetual monument of the high intellectual, moral, and religious character of the citizens of Medfield.

The keys and papers were then delivered by CHARLES HAMANT, Esq., with the following remarks.

REMARKS BY CHARLES HAMANT, ESQ.

On the 25th day of June, 1866, I was summoned to the residence of one whom I had known from his earliest infancy, who was then prostrated and sinking with a relentless disease, which the united skill of eminent medical advisers vainly attempted to arrest.

I shall never forget entering that quiet sick chamber, where naught was heard save the labored breathing of one who was so soon to pass away ; anxiously and tenderly attended by her, the nearest and most dear of earthly friends, watching over him with the purest and most devoted womanly affection.

There, in that quiet apartment, with a mind clear and unimpaired, in a feeble voice—comprehending all that he desired to have accomplished,—he dictated the instrument by virtue of

which the town of Medfield this day comes into the possession of this commodious and beautiful edifice.

This act was but the culmination of thoughts which he had cherished, and oftentimes expressed to his friends and fellow-townsmen, when he was in health and in the active duties of life. He survived the solemn act of executing this instrument but three days. On the 28th day of June his spirit passed on to that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." His memory will be cherished and honored by this and succeeding generations.

Since the commencement of this structure, others, too, whom we would not forget, have gone to the "house of many mansions," who felt a lively interest in the progress of this work. It is fitting and appropriate that we should pause for a moment to remember them.

The first was that gray-haired and venerable man of more than three score and ten years,\* and whose excellences of character are in pleasant remembrance by all who knew him. Amid the closing scenes of his earthly pilgrimage, and but a few days prior to his decease, he expressed a wish that his life might be spared, so that he might see the completion of this building.

In quick succession he was followed by one † faithfully and honorably occupying official positions in the town, and in the very midst of his usefulness. He, too, while his strength was spared, prompted by feelings of lively interest, was accustomed almost daily to visit this spot to witness the progress of the building of the strong foundations. "Many hearts mourn his loss."

And we would also solemnly remember the sudden and startling death of that father ‡ of the donor of this building, which

\* Jacob Marshall.

† Henry J. Eve, et.

‡ Warren Cheney.

took place in the following autumn. He lived to see the completion of the external part of the house, and obeyed the summons to depart—the last member of his family. He has gone to join “the dead found faithful to the end.”

There are others of whom we think to-day, and of whom we would kindly speak, but want of time forbids.

The Board of Trustees would feel that the exercises of the hour would be incomplete, did we not gratefully recollect the true, womanly affection that prompted the widow of our benefactor to abide by, and accept of, the testamentary provisions made for her, rather than waiving them, and by so doing receiving a much larger pecuniary consideration. We are most happy to bear testimony to the honorable and lady-like disposition which she has exhibited to us in all our business relations with her.

I will now very briefly pass to a sketch of our doings since we determined upon the question as to the time of building.

It may not be known to all that, by the conditions of the will, this was left somewhat discretionary with the Board of Trustees, one condition depending vitally upon the expressed wish and authority of the town, and to be determined by their votes at a meeting legally held for that purpose. And here let me say that all our proceedings have been guided by a desire to promote the best interests of the town, as they were so soon to come into possession. We, however, felt sacredly bound to respect the verbally expressed wishes of the testator, made to one of the Board at the time the trust was created; namely, that it should be, in its exterior and interior arrangements and form, pleasing and attractive to the eye of persons of cultivated tastes and possessing knowledge of rules of architecture. Fortunately for two of the Board, the one selected from a neighboring town\* possessed in an eminent degree the qualifications

\* Hon. E. P. Carpenter, of Foxboro.

necessary to direct in the initiatory proceedings; and we beg leave here and now, for ourselves and in behalf of our citizens, gratefully to thank him for the valuable services he has rendered without money or price.

In regard to the location of the house the Trustees had no will or wish particularly their own to gratify, but brought the question before a very full meeting of our legal voters; and their enthusiastic and unanimous verdict was in favor of the present site. The bond required by the will was unanimously authorized by a large vote, and nothing remained on the part of the town to be accomplished; and there seemed to be a pressing desire and increasing interest that the work of building should immediately be commenced. Accordingly three distinguished artists were found who were willing to compete, upon the terms proposed, and three separate plans, all having merits worthy of consideration, were furnished, one of which, after mature deliberation, was accepted by the Board. An unforeseen difficulty now arose. No contractor could be found who was willing to undertake the work for the means we had in our hands—a dilemma for which we had not provided. But generously and unsolicited by us our friends brought the subject before the town, and an appropriation was unanimously made, covering expenses already incurred in the purchase and grading of the land, leaving the trust fund to be used wholly in the erection and furnishing of the house: a desire expressed by the donor when making the bequest, and the work has been accomplished substantially in accordance with the original designs.

The contractors, honorable men of means and ability, it is believed, have faithfully and substantially performed the work, and we trust with no pecuniary loss to themselves. We feel that great credit is due also to the architects, Messrs. Hartwell & Swasey, for the beautiful model furnished, the pleasing and

attractive picture which it presents to us and to the passing stranger. Other thoughts crowd upon our mind, but I have already occupied more time than I should.

“’Twere vain attempt to speak the worth  
Of benefaction such as this;  
Our hope shall be that it give birth  
To noblest impulse, and with bliss  
Be crowned, surpassing all reward  
Which worldly honor, rank and fame,  
With hoarded wealth, can e’er afford  
To him who nothing more can claim.”

Mr. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen,— This building having now been completed to the acceptance of the Board of Trustees, whom I have the honor to represent, in their behalf I now present you these keys, and in accordance with the provisions of the will, this deed of conveyance by virtue of which this beautiful estate passes from the custody of the Trustees, and vests the title in the inhabitants of Medfield. I also present you with policies of insurance upon the building. Thus is consummated the expressed wishes and directions of the testator, and may it be a lasting benefit to this and succeeding generations.

J. B. HALE, Esq., in behalf of the citizens of the town, received the keys and papers, with the following remarks.

REMARKS BY J. B. HALE, ESQ.

*Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees:—*

The reception in behalf of the town of this noble building is one of the most acceptable official duties I have been called upon to perform. I do not forget that it is the position I happen to occupy at this time, more than my own merit, that brings me before you to-day.

It seems almost like a dream that, after using the “Meeting-

House" for more than two centuries for town purposes, and in later years rooms not adapted to, or convenient for, the wants of the town, we are the recipients of this beautiful Hall without the asking, and with very little effort on our part; and it marks an important era in our history, that a citizen born and reared in our midst, one whose ancestors have dwelt here for four generations, and are mentioned with honor in our public records of Revolutionary times, should find his duty and inclination in devoting so large a portion of the fruits of his labors for the public good. May posterity honor his memory, and others follow his example!

I would that I were capable of doing justice to this occasion, but language fails me. A few words to yourself and your associates.

You have been pleased from the first to show me the plans offered, and to express your feelings and desires very fully in executing the trust confided to your hands; and it gives me pleasure to-day to testify to your unwearied zeal and earnestness that nothing should be overlooked that could add to, or enhance the value of, this noble benefaction. I congratulate you in your choice of architects,—gentlemen who have shown eminent qualifications for their profession, who have carried out *your* intention to provide, in accordance with the desire of the generous donor, a building that should be substantial, that should be useful for the present and prospective wants of the town, and whose proportions should be a pleasure to the eye and an ornament to our village. In all these particulars, *and more*, you have been eminently successful, and have the proud satisfaction of a solemn trust well performed.

The dedicatory prayer was then offered by Rev. J. M. R. EATON; and after singing by the Medfield Choral Union,



the following address was delivered by ROBERT R. BISHOP, Esq., of Newton.

### ADDRESS OF ROBERT R. BISHOP, ESQ.

I ACCEPT with grateful pleasure the task of speaking to-day ; for which of her children can come back again to a town having the history and the memories of this town, — can come back on a festival day, — with other emotions than those of joy and love ? We come, the sons and the daughters of Medfield, to devote to its uses in a formal manner this building, the gift of a son of Medfield. We come up to the old street, we come under the shadow of the old trees, but into this new hall which his munificence has provided for future generations. If you were to visit Medfield coming from Newton or Needham, and should cross the high land near Mr. Franklin Shumway's house, or coming from Sherburne should pass over the hill by Mr. Charles Howe's, or if you came from Walpole across that beautiful plain, near which sixty years ago lived the beloved physician of Medfield, Dr. Elias Mann, whose house, to his credit be it said, the present owner preserves in all its fine old form, — from either of these spots, looking toward this place, you would see to-day, and you would have seen for years, a picture, I venture to say, unsurpassed in its kind. Seated here in the midst of its embowering trees, every line proportionate, every figure harmonious, this place realizes Goldsmith's line,

“ Loveliest village of the plain.”

But I have been struck during the past summer — have you not? — to see how that picture is rounded out, and filled, and made complete by the outline and the form of this building appearing in the midst. As you look, it seems natural, and yet it is new ; it seems familiar, and yet you have never seen it before ;

and you cannot tell whether by its proportion, its comeliness, and its fitness to the place, it adorns the spot more, or whether the ancient trees, and the surrounding buildings, and the spot adorn the building more. And let me congratulate you, friends, at the outset, upon what, possibly, is the chief characteristic of this new building; namely, that it is fitted to this old town. I have not forgotten that a new broom breaks the handles of all the old ones, nor the sad story of the man who, persuaded by his daughter, bought a pair of new brass andirons; how the brightness of the andirons put to shame the dullness of the old shovel and tongs, so that a new pair of shovel and tongs had to be bought; then the brightness of the new shovel and tongs was a great discomfort to the old table and chairs, until a new table and chairs were obtained; and they, in turn, distressed the carpet, and that had to go and a new one take its place; and so on until the man was ruined. But the principle to be derived from such examples rightly apprehended does not apply to this case. If you introduce something that is new into the midst of that which is old, it does destroy the harmony of it, it does disarrange the symmetry of it, it does spoil the arrangement of it, if it is not fitted for it; but it adds a beauty to it, it discloses a charm which you did not suppose existed, it develops a perfection which was not dreamed of before, if it is fitted to it. And just here, in my opinion,—pardon me for saying it,—is where the skill of an architect, if he has skill, and the good sense of a building committee, if they have good sense, come into play. It is not by the extravagant expenditure of money, it is not by building the largest house, or the most elegant house, that an architect shows his skill, or a building committee their wisdom; but it is by building a house fitted to its purposes, and to its place. I care not whether the house was built two hundred years ago, or built to-day, whether it is large or small, whether it is elegant or economical,—show me a house which is

fitted to the uses to which it is to be put, and to the spot on which it stands, and I will show you a house built in good taste, and with good sense. Try this house by that standard. Consider the problem the Trustees were to solve; the germ of it, the substance of it, is contained in apt language in the will of the donor, when he requires the Trustees to erect a building, such for "materials, form, and beauty of finish," as a judicious expenditure of the bequest would admit. Beauty of finish! that is one requirement. Who are they who dislike beauty? Where is he who is not better for the beauty of flowers? Where is he who is not happier for the beauty there is in the faces of little children? The difficulty is to determine what is beauty, for it consists as much in the absence of those things which offend the taste, as in the presence of those which gratify it. It consists in the chasteness and rigidity of exclusion as much as in the amplitude of admission. But surely those things which are beautiful only are of no service, and therefore should be discarded; and he who says that will point us to a score of things about this building which should have been omitted because they are beautiful only. And I think if he were to come up from the North End, and round the corner, and take a full view of this building, the first thing he would put in his catalogue would be the graceful and airy railing which runs along the ridge-pole and mounts the turret. That, surely, is of no service. It is graceful, it is beautiful, it makes you better for looking at it; but it is of no service, and therefore it should have been omitted; of no more service, friend, than the two buttons on the back of your coat, and therefore should have been omitted. A little girl who was born and had spent all her childhood in India, was sent at the proper time to her aunt, in New England, to be educated. On the morning after her arrival her aunt dressed her in a new gown made purposely of very plain stuff, because she knew the little girl had not been accustomed to

finery, and the only ornaments there were on the dress were two simple bows, one at the elbow and the other at the shoulder. The little girl came down to breakfast, and, after "Good morning," looking at the bows with a pleased but puzzled expression said, "Auntie, I am glad you put these bows upon my dress, they are so comfortable and convenient." She had not the vocabulary of fashion, but she knew that they made her comfortable and happy. She instinctively knew that, like all proper adornment they marked the difference between civilized enjoyments and barbarous pleasures.

The other requirement is as to form and materials : and what should these be but of the most permanent and enduring character, — for this building is not built for a day, but for your children and their children's children. A house, like matrimony, like wedlock, should endure. And how much thought there was in the language of him who said : "This has been a good house to live in ; it shall be a good house to die in." And if that is true, friends, of your house and of mine, how much truer is it of the house of the town, built, and to stand, in memorial of her son. Looking, then, friends, into the future, thinking of the days which shall be when we are not, shall we not pronounce this a work well done, and done forever ?

And thinking of the future, we come naturally to think of the past, of that long succession of years, that long procession of events, which have transpired since Medfield became a town. Medfield became a town in 1650.<sup>1</sup> Think how long ago that was ! Then Oliver Cromwell was at the head of the State in England, and John Milton was his secretary. King Charles the First had been beheaded about one year, and Hampden had been dead about seven years. In the province of Massachusetts there were, I believe, about forty towns.<sup>2</sup> The spirit of intolerance

1. For this and succeeding references, see NOTES appended.

and oppression against the Quakers and other heretics was rising to its full height. The next year John Clarke preached to a handful of Baptists at Lynn, and he was publicly tried by a court, and sentenced to pay a fine, and one of his associates publicly whipped; and the law previously passed, perhaps designed originally to prevent such civil disorders as had prevailed in Europe, was set in force with intent to banish forever all Baptists from the soil of Massachusetts.<sup>3</sup> In the same year a law was passed prohibiting gentlemen from wearing top-boots, and gold and silver lace, and prohibiting ladies from wearing, among other things, Tiffany hoods, and requiring that the selectmen should see to the fulfillment of these requirements.<sup>4</sup> If, as I suspect, Tiffany hoods bore some relation to modern bonnets, I have no doubt the selectmen had an agreeable duty in enforcing the part of the law which applied to them. In the same year a war of conquest on the part of the United Colonies of New England, for the subjugation and annexation of New York, was prevented by the sober common sense of Massachusetts.

Among the towns most remarkable, in some respects, of that colony was the town of—Contentment. Yes, that was the name; for when the first settlers of Dedham had built their houses, and marked out their lots, they petitioned the General Court to be incorporated as a town under the name of Contentment, because they said they had observed the strifes which were prevalent in the other towns of the province, and had observed how good men could dip their hands in each other's blood for the sake of religious opinions; therefore, they, being peaceably disposed, of one mind and heart, inclined to live together in unity and the fear of God, prayed to be incorporated as a town, and that their sentiments might be embodied in its name. But the General Court thought otherwise, and incorporated the town under the name of Dedham. This was in 1635. Shortly afterward many of the

inhabitants, allured by the fertility of the soil, the beauty of this spreading plain, and the luxuriance of the meadows, came to what is now Medfield, and settled what was then called Meadfield and Bogastow, and in the years 1650 and 1651 this was established as a distinct town, the first offshoot from Dedham.<sup>5</sup>

In the year 1651, John Eliot undertook to form his settlement of Indians at South Natick. He built three long streets on the banks of the Charles River, and drew the Indians into habitations, and clothed them with raiment, and put over them the laws which Jethro recommended to Moses,—one ruler for a hundred, two rulers for fifties, ten rulers for tens. Dedham complained of being deprived of that territory, and accordingly commissioners were appointed to go out and inspect, and provide other land for Dedham in the place of that taken at South Natick for the Indians. The commissioners went to Ashburnham and the district comprising what are now the other towns on the border of Massachusetts near the southern line of New Hampshire. If you should take the Clinton and Fitchburg Railroad and go to that vicinity, even if you should go no further than Fitchburg, and look out upon the Rollstone Hill, which is opposite, I think you would make the same report which the commissioners made when they came back; they said that it seemed to be the backbone of the province, and they did not think it was fit for agricultural purposes.

Meanwhile reports of the great fertility of the Connecticut Valley had come to the East, and other commissioners were appointed who went to what is now the beautiful town of Deerfield. There they saw such intervalles as they had never seen before, and looked upon such meadows as were nowhere else in the province except on the banks of the Connecticut River; and like the messengers of old, they came back and brought a favorable report; and so it was that the eight thousand acres of land given



by the General Court to Dedham, in place of the land at South Natick which had been taken away, was located at Deerfield. Thereafterwards, Deerfield, Dedham, and Medfield have much that is common in their history. The names which you will find upon the records of one town are found upon the records of the others; father and mother in one, son and daughter in the others. Eleazer Lusher,<sup>6</sup> who was appointed to divide the lands in Natick for the Indians, was the first town clerk of Medfield; yet he never lived in Medfield himself, but retained his residence in Dedham. Robert Hinsdale lived in Dedham, then came to Medfield, then went to Deerfield, and with his three sons was slain at Bloody Brook on that beautiful September morning as they were carrying the grain to Hadley.<sup>7</sup> And the names of Frary and other names are common upon all the records.

Deerfield and Medfield were both subjected to the fire and blood of Indian war. I suppose the best account of the sacking and burning of Medfield is the contemporary one written by Hubbard, minister of Ipswich, two years after the event took place.<sup>8</sup> He says it is indeed a surprising thing that Medfield should have been burned at all, because warned by the loss of Lancaster, Medfield, together with some other towns, had provided itself with garrison-soldiers, and there were plenty of soldiers in the town. But the garrison troops were billeted up and down the town, and could not be readily gathered together. And he says, what I expect is not even now an uncommon fact, the farmers of Medfield had taken up more land than they could well take care of, and so bushes and trees had grown up from the stumps, and thereby the Indians were better enabled to secrete themselves over night under the bushes and trees, and near the fences and barns, and so to spring upon the town at the break of day. He records that the first house burned was that of Samuel Morse, at the east part of the town, undoubtedly a house

standing upon the Morse estate, which has remained in the family ever since. This, he says, was the signal for the universal firing, and the shooting of the inhabitants as they ran out of doors. A father and one child would run in one direction, and the mother and another child in the other; one was saved and the other perished. He relates how an old man nearly one hundred years old was burned in his dwelling, — John Fussell. He says the lieutenant of the town, Henry Adams, who came from Braintree, and who was a lineal ancestor of Mr. John Wickliffe Adams, was shot in his door-way,<sup>9</sup> and his wife perished soon afterward by the accidental discharge of a musket in the house. Seventeen or eighteen people were slain, or mortally wounded, and £2,000 worth of property destroyed. Finally the Indians were driven over the bridge into Medway by the firing of canon. But he records the mercy of Providence which spared the two garrison-houses, and the better part, as he says, of the dwellings.<sup>10</sup>

Deerfield was likewise sacked in the French and Indian war thirty years later. Nor is Deerfield the only town at the western part of the State which has intimate associations with Medfield. Sturbridge was some fifty years later settled by an immigration from Medfield; and the tales of family visits there—brothers, cousins, and friends making the journey on horseback—are in our memory still.<sup>11</sup>

In the Revolutionary War, and in the stormy and critical period which preceded it, when the minds of men were forming, Medfield took no inconsiderable part. It has been said that the town-meetings of Boston for the ten years preceding the battle of Lexington, tried by the consequences of their language and deeds, were among the most important public assemblages mentioned in history. The other towns of the Colony must share in this encomium also; and to none, I believe, is it more applicable than to ours. No one, I think, can examine the records of the

town (fortunately preserved from the beginning), and go over the period from 1765 to the close of the war, without being deeply impressed with the character of the men who stood in this place, our fathers, and took upon themselves their full share of the great responsibility. They took for their watchword the motto appended in 1765 to the instructions given to Samuel Clark, their representative in the General Court, "Honor the king, but save the Country," and kept it throughout the contest. These instructions, full of patriotic ardor, were ordered in town-meeting to be inscribed at length upon the records "as a memorial to ages yet unborn, of the present generation's high sense of our natural and chartered rights and privileges." They held, I was going to say, an almost continual town-meeting, adjourning from month to month, or week to week, as occasion required. They sent the French neutrals to Canada, and provided them money to go with, on condition that they should never return. Under a sense of their "duty to the times" they restricted the use of what we should deem the necessities of life, but what they termed its luxuries. A long list of the articles prohibited you will find upon your records. They chose a committee of safety, and a committee of correspondence with the town of Boston, and their reply to the famous letter of Boston,—which I hope before this occasion closes will be read in your hearing, spread at length upon the records,—is unsurpassed in the language which was uttered by any town at that eventful time. One hundred and fifty-three names,—all the heads of families or freeholders,—appear upon your records appended to the articles of association recommended by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, whereby the Colonies practically sever their connection with the mother country. It is to be noted also with grateful pride that, in the same voice and votes in which they assert their own rights, they maintain those of all men, and con-

demn slavery. They say that it appears absurd to plead for liberty and yet patronize the most cruel servitude and bondage ; and yet the "poor Africans taken from all that is dear to them on their native soil, have not the least shadow of liberty remaining." "We wish," they say, "to maintain constitutional liberty ourselves, and cannot endure the thought of its being withheld from the same flesh and blood for no other reason that we can conceive of but because the God of nature has been pleased to tinge their skins with a different color from our own." Thus early did the principles of anti-slavery take root in this town.<sup>12</sup>

Who were the actors in that scene? We only know by the records and by tradition. The names of Daniel Perry, William Plimpton, Moses Bullen, Eliakim Morse, Henry Adams, Nathan Plimpton, Oliver Ellice, Seth Dwight, Eleazer White, Seth Clark and Nathan Coolidge appear constantly. And the soldiers who sustained the cause upon the battle-field,—the young men who left the plow in the furrow, and went forth, and came not back again,—how little do we know of them!<sup>13</sup>

The history of a town can best be understood by considering the lives of the most prominent actors in it. In an enumeration of the citizens of Medfield who have left their impress upon their generation, the first to be mentioned is Ralph Wheelock, the first subscriber for removing from Dedham to Medfield, and styled the founder of the town. He was a native of Shropshire, England, was educated at Clare Hall, Cambridge, became a dissenting clergyman, and was called an eminent preacher. He came first to Watertown, and then removed to Dedham, where he was an unsuccessful candidate for minister at the time Mr. Allin was chosen. He remained in Dedham, performing many public duties, until the founding of this town, and then removed here. He was the magistrate of the place, was deputy for Medfield in the General Court of Elections at more sessions

than any other person, and was the person commissioned by the General Court to perform the marriage service within the bounds of Medfield and Mendon,<sup>14</sup> as he had previously been for Dedham. He was a man of mark and prominence in the Colony, and from him descended Eleazer Wheelock, the Indian Missionary, and founder of Dartmouth College.<sup>15</sup>

Of the clergymen of the town there never should be forgotten four :— John Wilson, the first minister of this town, who graduated in the first class at Harvard College, who preached here forty years, and was the son of the Rev. John Wilson, who came from England, and was the first minister of Boston. Joseph Baxter, his successor, who likewise preached here forty years, but whom the town came very near losing that he might become a missionary among the Indians. When Governor Shute, the Governor of the Colony, undertook a voyage and journey to visit the Indians in Maine, that he might learn their habits, and form a treaty with them, he invited Mr. Baxter, who was a man “full of promise,” to accompany him, with a view that he should remain as a missionary. On the same voyage, undertaken in a shallop, the Governor invited also the Chief-Justice of the Colony to accompany him,—Chief-Justice Samuel Sewall, a lineal ancestor of him who honors us with his presence to preside to-day. While in Maine Mr. Baxter had some correspondence with Ralle, the French Jesuit, who had spent all his life as a missionary among the Indians ; and when Ralle complained that the Latin,—the language in which the correspondence was conducted,—of Mr. Baxter's letters was bad, Governor Shute replied that the chief requirement of a missionary among the Indians was not an exact knowledge of the Latin tongue, but that he possess the ability to bring them from nature's darkness into Christ's marvellous light. Thomas Prentiss, who preached here forty-four years, whom some of you surely remember, that

most dignified and earnest man, whose force of character was great, who was a man of the utmost liberality of mind and of the greatest consistency of life. Dr. Daniel C. Saunders, who left the presidency of a university to become a minister in Medfield. He was an exact scholar, and, as we remember him, a stately gentleman.

But of all the names of those who have been identified with Medfield, two are pre-eminent; two there are who have gone out from among us, who have reflected imperishable honor upon the spot of their birth. Theirs was no common course; they pursued no beaten track; they struck out a course for themselves, and in the departments in which they severally labored they produced a new era in history. Hannah Adams was the first American lady who devoted her life to literature; indeed, she was the first American lady who attempted to enter the field of literature; and we can never realize the debt of obligation which we and all posterity owe to her, because we can never understand the poverty and barrenness of the literature of her time. Take, for instance, one out of many of her works, her history of New England,—an excellent book, afterwards used as a text-book in the Boston schools, and, I believe, in Harvard College. How many histories of New England do you suppose there were at the time she began to write that book? Only two. No, not two; only two books which could pretend to be histories, or which contained in any connected form any considerable historical account of New England; and one of them was Cotton Mather's "*Magnalia*," written one hundred years before,—which I am afraid my ecclesiastical friends will tell me had better never have been written at all,—and the other was about as bad. She was a pioneer; she struck out a course for herself; she drew her materials from original sources, and she acquired a national reputation. She took the place in America



which Hannah More held in England. Tell it, therefore, elsewhere if you will, but tell it not in the birthplace of Hannah Adams, that a woman cannot serve her country, or bless her age, and that she is not entitled to the education of a man.

And if you ask me for the other name, what child of Medfield, what son, is known throughout the land, across the water, over the continents beyond, in the Sandwich Islands, in India and in China, I ask you to tell me where the tunes of Hebron, and the Missionary Hymn, and Mount Vernon, and Hamburg, are sung, and who first set their lines to measure? He went to school with some of you; he began life as a trader in Georgia; but music was in his soul, the impulse was irresistible, and to-day the name of Lowell Mason is known and loved, and his recent death lamented, wherever throughout the world the praises of God ascend in song.

I should be glad to speak of others. Coming down to a time within our own recollection, I should be glad to speak of Daniel Adams, and Dr. Hewins. I should be glad to speak of that brilliant young man cut off in his prime, Lieutenant Derby. I should be glad to try and draw a picture, if I thought there was any chance of success, of Charles Onion. And I should rejoice to speak of some of the living, of Dr. Allen, of Northboro, who went out from us a youth, — but who returns to be with us to-day, his head hoary with years, and himself ripe with honors from his adopted town. I should not fail to speak of the debt which the town owes, and especially the young people who have been through the schools of the town owe, to you, sir,\* for wise counsel, for timely admonition, and for a steadfast adherence to the best and highest interests of the young.

But the occasion reminds me that in what remains to be

\* Rev. Mr. Sewall, President of the day.

said I should speak chiefly of him by reason of whose bounty to the town we are assembled together.

George Warren Chenery was born in Medfield. He was the son of Mr. Warren Chenery, an upright, sturdy, excellent man, who by a life of foresight and industry had accumulated a considerable fortune. After passing through the schools of this town Mr. Chenery began life as clerk in the employ of Mr. Fiske, and afterwards went into business with his father. He was not a man who was liked by everybody, but, what is far better, he was a man whose qualities entitled him to the respect of everybody. He had himself strong likes and dislikes, and it must be that such a man will offend some; but nobody ever doubted the honesty or the purity of his purposes, or the trueness of his heart. He did not pin his faith, or his opinions, or his course in life, to the course, or opinions, or faith, of anybody else. He was truly independent; yet along with this independence there was a degree of refinement and sensibility about him which marked him as a gentleman. And then there was a generous desire which he possessed to make the most of himself, and to do his best. He might have done—nothing. From childhood he was of slender constitution, and he was afflicted during most of his life by that terrible malady, the asthma; and he might well have sought excuse from the trusts and activities of life, if anybody may. With his father's ample fortune to fall back upon, it would have been easy for him to lead a listless life. He might have been a spectator of the great drama of life, instead of a participant in it. If he had chosen, he might have shirked the responsibilities of life. But, friends, if he had, we should not have been assembled to do him honor. I have said that he chose the best things. By travel, by books, by observation, and by study, he cultivated his mind, and who shall not say cultivated



his heart also. But he sought the best things for others as well as for himself, and one of the constant subjects of his interest was the town in which he was born, and in which he dwelt; and he often remarked upon what in various particulars and in different respects would benefit or improve the town, or add to it; and often regretted the absence in the town of any building suitable for public purposes. And thus it came to pass that on his death-bed he left the bequest which reared this edifice. Let its walls forever stand as a memorial of a young man who in life was true to his trusts, and did his best. He was cut off in the midst of his years; he died at the age of less than forty years; yet who shall say that he did not accomplish much? Who shall say that such a life as his was not worth living? Nay, shall we not all unite in saying in reference to him, "That life is long which answers well life's end"?

But our duty would not be performed if we failed to remember our obligation at this time to another, his wife,—and now his widow. It is sufficient to say that, while she might have embarrassed the Trustees in the discharge of their duties, while she might have retarded the erection of this building, while she might have placed obstacles in the way; she removed all obstacles, she hastened the erection of the building by relinquishing that which she had a right to claim, and from first to last she co-operated with the Trustees in the discharge of their duties, and assisted them with cheerful help to the end. And when we remember, friends, the controversies which are now going on in two adjoining towns in regard to bequests of a public nature, and the way in which selfish men usually act, and behold the way in which this noble woman who stood by his side in life stood by his bequest in death, may we not take from fiction its address to one

of the most beautiful of its characters, and apply it to you, madam? \*

"Lady, lady, if there were more like you, there were fewer like us."

We dedicate this hall to-day. By all the emotions which swell the heart, or rise to the lips, let us dedicate ourselves, also, to a life of high purposes and noble endeavor. The life and example of him whom we chiefly commemorate to-day thus appeals especially to the young men of Medfield. We may scatter, and our avocations are to be perhaps as diverse as the places of our abode; some will remain upon the old homestead and be carried at last to the old grave-yard; some may die in San Francisco or Japan, and be buried by unknown hands; some may be wealthy, others may bear through life the cords of poverty; some will be successful, many will be disappointed; but whatever our avocations in life may be, or wherever our lot upon earth may be cast, let us fill up the measure of life with good works, animated by a right heart, so that at the end it may be said of us, "He, too, did not live in vain."

At the close of the Address the following gentlemen responded briefly to appropriate sentiments given by the presiding officer: M. M. FISHER, Esq., of Medway; GEO. ALLEN, Esq., of West Newton; JAMES HEWINS, Esq., of Medfield; W. H. BALDWIN, of Boston; CHAS. P. CLARK, of Newton; and REV. J. H. WIGGIN, of Medfield.

After singing the Original Ode, the Benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Wiggin.

\* Mrs. Chenery.

## NOTES

APPENDED TO THE ADDRESS BY R. R. BISHOP, ESQ.

1. Strictly 1651. It was a "villadge" belonging to Dedham until the act entitled "Meadfeild's Power."—*Vid. Note 5*. In the succeeding year (1652), Medfield was first represented by deputy in the General Court of Election.

2. Not so many distinct towns entitled to representation. In the list of towns sending deputies to the General Court of Election in 1652 and subsequently, Medfield stands the twenty-eighth.

3. This act was passed in 1644.—*2 Mass. Col. Rec.*, 85. It is to be observed that the preamble recites the civil conflicts in Germany as the ground and justification for passing it. And it can hardly be believed that in the state of civil society then existing, this was mere pretence. It had remained a dead letter.—*Vid. Winslow's Hypocricie Unmasked*, 101. Two successive presidents of Harvard College had held Baptist doctrines. And see the grounds of Gov. Winthrop's opinion in Mrs. Hutchinson's case.—*Winthrop's Journal*, 1., 250.

4. *3 Mass. Col. Rec.*, 243. For a law passed in 1639 upon the subject of apparel, *Vid. 1 id.*, 274.

5. The inhabitants of Dedham, in 1636, petitioned the General Court of Election "to ratifie unto your humble petitioners your grante formerly made [in 1635] of a plantation above the ffalls, that we may possess all that land which is left out of all former grants upon that side of Charles River ; and upon the other side seven miles square." They further pray for exemption from taxation for four years, and that the Court will "distinguish our towne by the name of Contentment." In reply to this petition, the General Court ordered that the plantation should have three years' immunity from public charges, should be called by the name of Dedham, and should "enjoy all that land on the easterly and southerly side of Charles River not formerly granted unto

any town or p'ticular p'son, and also to have five miles square on ye other side of the river." This grant is copied upon the first page of the Dedham town records, and see also 1 *Mass. Col. Rec.*, 180, 257; 3 *id.*, 247. Its terms comprehended all the territory in the colony eastward and southward of Charles River above the falls not previously granted, including the present towns of Dedham, Medfield, Wrentham, Bellingham, Walpole, Franklin, Dover, Norfolk, and Norwood; and the five miles square on the north and west side of the river embraced Needham, Natick and part of Sherburne. Medway was not included, that lying north of the river and beyond the limits of the five miles square on that side.

When the time came for laying out a distinct village (1649), Dedham obtained a further grant from the General Court as follows: "In ansr. to a petition of the inhabitants of Dedham ffor a parcell of vpland and meadow adjoining to their line to make a villadge of, in quantity 4 miles south and north, and three miles east and west, becawse they are streightned at their doores by other tounes & rocky lands &c. Their request is graunted so as they erect a distinct village therevpon within one yeere from this day, Octob. 23 1649, and Capt. Keajne, Mr. Edward Jackson & the surveyor gennerall are appointed to lay it out at any time, Dedham giving them a weekes warning."—3 *Mass. Col. Rec.*, 181.

The following is the record of the laying out pursuant to this grant:

"Whereas there was a graunt made by the Generall Court at a session the 22d of the 8th moth, 1649, vnto the inhabitants of Dedham, in answer to a petition of theires for the enlargment of the village theire, as by the 'sajd graunt may more fully appeare, this graunt, so made, was layd out by Captayne Robt. Keaine and Mr. Edward Jackson, who haue subscribed it with their hands in manner & forme followinge, vizt: begininge at a small hill, or iland, in the meddow on the west side of Charles Riuer, & runinge from thence about full west three miles, and then, turninge a south line, ended at Charles Riuer at three miles & a quarter, this line beinge there shorter then by the graunt it was allowed to be, but accepted by the grauntees, the -sajd riuer is appointed to be the bounds from that place to the place where the first lyne began. This Court doth approue of this retorne of the psons aboue mentioned concerninge the bounds of the saj'd village, & in answer to the request of the inhabitants of Dedha, doe

order that it shalbe called (Meadfeild)—*p Curia.*" 3 *Mass. Col. Rec.*, 188.

The tract of land conveyed by the last grant is now wholly in the town of Medway. The "hill or iland in the meddow" is near the house of the late Horatio Mason, and the three-mile line "about full west" is the present dividing line between Sherborn and Medway, and the line beginning at the end of this and running south reaches the river just above Medway village.

Having obtained this grant Oct. 23, 1649, Dedham held a town meeting Nov. 14th following, and set apart a portion of its original territory for the new town. After reciting the above grant, the town voted that there shall be "granted for the accommodation of the village so much land within the west end of the bounds of Dedham next Bogastow, as is or may be contained within the extent of three miles east and west, and four miles north and south,—the form and line to be varied and altered as in the judgment of such men as shall be deputed thereunto shall seem for the most convenient accommodation both of Dedham and the said village."

Jan. 1, 1650, Eleazer Lusher, Lieut. Fisher, Ensign Phillips, John Dwight, and Daniel Fisher were appointed to lay out this grant from Dedham, and the territory laid out by them doubtless conforms to the present territory of Medfield (all that portion granted by the General Court as above mentioned upon the west side of Charles River now forming the town of Medway.—*Id. post*). And at a town meeting subsequently held in the same year, Dedham passed a vote by which it "consented unto and ordered" that all the power and right of town government in said territory be transmitted and delivered unto the town of Medfield and its selectmen forever, Medfield making a certain payment, as to which Dedham promised reasonable forbearance.

Full power is given to Medfield as a town by the following act, entitled "Meadfeild's Power," passed by the General Court 22 May, 1651:

"There beinge a towne lately erected beyond Dedham in the county of Suffolke, vppon Charles Riuer, called by the name of Meadfeild, vppon theire request, made to this Generall Court, this Court hath graunted them all the power & priuiledges which other townes doe injoy, according to law.—*p Curia.*" 3 *Mass. Col. Rec.*, 228; 4 *id.*, pt. 1, 46.

After this the town regularly appeared by deputy in the General Court of Election.

In 1659 the General Court made an additional grant unto the town "at the west ends thereof two miles east & west & fower miles north & south," and Capt. Lusher and Lieut. Fisher were appointed to lay out this grant, which was done.—*4 Col. Rec., pt. 1, 379, 380.*

The territory laid out under this grant was, doubtless, what is now the remainder of Medway beyond the grant west of the river in 1649. In 1713 the town of Medway, embracing all of Medfield west of the river (*i. e.*, the grants of 1649 and 1659), was set off as a distinct town. This left remaining in Medfield that territory which originally formed a part of Dedham, as before remarked.

The name of the town is variously spelled. In the Dedham town records it is usually spelled Medfield; in the Medfield records often Meadfield; while in the records of the General Court of Elections the Secretary almost invariably transposes the i and e, and makes it "Meadfeild." The brand of the town was established by the General Court as follows:— "**MF**. Itt is ordered that the marke, or letter, in the margent be the brand or marke for Meadfeild."—*4 Col. Rec., 335.*

As to the extent of the territory called Bogastow I am in doubt. The word is sometimes used as synonymous with Medfield. But in the Medfield town records Medfield is spoken of as "a town to be established *near* that place commonly called Boggastow," and as located "on the westward of the bounds of Dedham toward Boggastow," and the name seems more properly to have applied to what is now the southern part of Sherborn and the eastern part of Medway. The petitions for the establishment of a town at Sherburne, and the action of the General Court thereupon, refer to the place as Bogastow, and the farms granted at Bogastow to Rev. John Allin and others were, doubtless, in the eastern part of Medway.

6. Eleazer Lusher's public services were very numerous. In recognition of them, the General Court of Election granted him a tract of land for a farm comprising most of the territory where the present village of Holliston stands.

7. It is indeed true, in the language of Hubbard, that Capt. Lothrop's company, slain at Bloody Brook, was composed of young men "the very Flower of the County of Essex, . . . none of whom were ashamed to speak with the enemy in the gate."—*1. Hub. Ind. Wars, 113.* But the additional statement that they were "all called out of the towns belonging to that county" cannot be correct. Holland



in his History of Western Massachusetts falls into the same error, and in his list of the slain puts Robert Hinsdale and his sons as of Manchester. The company was composed of young men from Essex, but doubtless others from Deerfield joined it on its arrival there, among them Hinsdale, who had recently removed from Medfield, and his sons. Hinsdale's house in Medfield was the first house north of Vine Brook, and his well is still in use upon the estate. So also Jonathan Plimpton, — son of John Plimpton, one of the signers of the original compact for removal from Dedham to Medfield, who had subsequently removed to Deerfield, — was a member of Capt. Lothrop's Company, and perished at Bloody Brook. Two years and one day afterward the father was taken by the Indians from Deerfield, and carried towards Canada, and likewise perished at their hands. — *Vid. Savage.*

8. Medfield was burned on the morning of the 21st Feb., 1676.

9. Timothy Dwight had been for many years the lieutenant of the town; but he was honorably discharged on his own petition by the General Court, May 27, 1668. Adams was appointed and commissioned in his place Jan. 6, 1673. — *4 Col. Rec., pt. 2, 382, 576.* He had bought (in 1660) of Eleazer Lusher the farm granted to the latter by the General Court, comprising most of the present village of Holliston, and placed his sons upon it, but never removed there himself. Maj. Thomas Savage was commander-in-chief of all the forces sent for the protection of Medfield. — *5 Col. Rec., 72.*

10. It has been stated that the Sunday before the assault the Indians were seen on the heights of Mount Nebo and Noon Hill as the people came out from public worship, and that the Rev. Mr. Wilson had warned his flock to be vigilant against surprise. — *Dr. Saunders's Historical Sermon.* If this is so, their unguarded condition is matter of greater surprise. The first house burned was that of Lieut. Samuel Morse, which stood upon somewhat high ground, a few rods south-easterly of the present residence of the Misses Lucy and Mary Morse, but upon the north-westerly side of the road as it then ran. The tradition, which seems to be without doubt correct, is, that "while Lieut. Morse was pitching hay from the mows to feed his cattle, early in the morning of the day when the burning took place, he uncovered the leg of an Indian who was concealed in the hay. He quietly let out his cattle, and fled with his family to the fort. He had hardly left the house before it was in flames. This was the signal for the work to commence.

At the close of the war, this same Indian, passing through the town, narrated the circumstance of his being discovered in the hay, and said he should not have moved had the fork been thrust through his leg." There were four garrisons in the town: one where the house of Mr. Bradford Curtis now stands; one at the Isaac Chenery homestead, where Mrs. Coltman now resides; one at the old Capt. Sadey house, afterwards Barachias Mason's, and subsequently the homestead of the late Col. Johnson Mason and of Horace Wight; and one where Mr. Lorenzo Harding now lives. The Indians seem to have avoided that portion of the town between Lieut. Morse's house and the church.

Near the house of the late Mr. Moses Bullard, on South Street, Elizabeth Smith was killed, and her son Samuel, then an infant in his mother's arms, was thrown into the air and left for dead. He was afterwards found alive at his mother's breast, and lived to an old age. One party crossed the meadow in front of the present residence of Mr. John Ellis, and near this place were killed Thomas Mason (son of Thomas one of the original subscribers for removing) and his eldest two sons; but his wife reached the garrison with their youngest child, from whom, the tradition is, all the Masons in this vicinity have descended. After the work of destruction the Indians crossed the river at a bridge which formerly stood between the present turnpike bridge and Brastow's bridge, not far from where Mr. Fisher Newell now lives, and held a wild feast upon the high land opposite. The position of this bridge is shown by a high rock on the bank. King Philip, whom tradition reports as having rode in exultation during the burning, leaping fences and ditches, upon a black horse, caused to be posted upon the bridge a paper, of which the following is a copy,

"Know by this paper that the Indians that thou hast provoked to  
"Wrath and Anger will war this twenty-one years if you will. There  
"are many Indians yett. We come 300 at this Time. You must con-  
"sider that the Indians loose nothing but their lives. You must loose  
"your fair houses and cattle."

The common belief that the ancient "Peak House" was standing when the town was burned is probably erroneous. The best present information upon the subject tends to the conclusion that this was part of another building standing a short distance from the present spot, built at a later date, and moved to the place where it now stands.

11. The land at Sturbridge was granted in 1729 to several peti-



tioners from Medfield, and was called New Medfield until its incorporation in 1738. It was for some time a kind of plantation, where the proprietors or those employed by them went in the summer, and returned in the autumn. For some time after the work of clearing began, no one dared to spend the winter in a place so remote from habitation. — *Clarke's Historical Sermon*. The first meeting-house was consecrated by the Rev. Mr. Baxter.

12. Slavery prevailed in Medfield, and it is perhaps from this fact that the resolutions are so strong and so pointedly directed against it. Rev. Mr. Baxter, by will, probated in 1745, devised to his wife "My negro slave Nanny during my wife's life, and to my said negro slave I give her freedom at my wife's decease." In a codicil he makes the bequest of freedom to depend on the condition that the negro woman shall "in all things carry and behave herself dutifully and well towards her said mistress, my wife." Warwick Green was a slave, brought from Africa, and was the body servant of Col. Wheelock in the army. Newport Green was also a slave.

13. The news of the battle of Lexington was brought to Medfield, as to the other towns, by a horseman. I remember hearing the tradition that the wall in front of the late Augustus Plimpton place was being laid the day on which the news came. The work stopped, and the men went to the army. This was but a sample of the conduct of the people. It is a matter of regret to me that I am unable to give some full and personal account of the soldiers from Medfield in the Revolutionary War. A want of time to make the necessary examinations, caused by the pressure of other duties, alone prevents me from attempting to gather such facts as are now accessible, and which indeed are fast fading from recollection and knowledge.

14. — 3 *Col. Rec.*, 45; 4 *id. pt. 1*, 382; *pt. 2.*, 554.

15. For several generations the descendants of Ralph Wheelock continued to live in Medfield, and to exercise a prominent part in public affairs. Col. Ephraim Wheelock, great-grandson of Ralph, was eight years in the French and Revolutionary wars, was captain at the siege of Louisburg, and afterwards served at Ticonderoga and Crown Point. He was the grandfather of the Misses Lucy and Mary Morse, — who are also descendants of Samuel Morse, and still reside upon his original homestead, — and whose knowledge and intelligent zeal in matters relating to the history of the town deserve the highest praise.





Helioype.

TOWN HALL, MEDFIELD, MASS.

Dedicated Nov. 2, 1874.

J. R. Osgood & Co., Boston.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT BUILDING.

The style of the architecture is a Germanized-Gothic. The chief building material is of selected brick, with Nova Scotia stone dressing, while the more important decorative parts are of cast-iron, painted and sanded in imitation of the stone. The base work is of Rockport granite, with the principal steps and tiling of the large main vestibule of marble. The situation of the building and surface of the land are such as to give a story of twelve feet on the rear side, and a portion of the ends entirely out of the ground. This basement story contains two large furnaces and fuel cellars, with one of the main hall furnaces in each, accommodations for police detention cells, a fire-engine room, with a large assemblage room for the firemen, a room for the town hearse, a large room to let for mechanical purposes, two small cellar rooms for use of stores above; also two water closets, &c. All the partition walls of this story are of substantial brick work, and four stairways give access to the main floor.

The floor above the basement provides four commodious stores, the Selectmen's room (containing a substantial brick vault), the Public Library, a janitor's room, a rear stairway to platform of main hall and its anterooms, and also the grand staircase to the hall. The vestibule from which these stairs start is finished with a marble tiled floor, ash wainscoting, and finely frescoed in oil.

The main hall is on the second floor, and finished well into the roof, and is, together with the stairways and entries, highly finished in fresco. There are anterooms leading from the platform, with a gallery above them. At the front or entrance end of the building are other anterooms, on each side of the stairway, communicating both with the main hall and entry. The main hall windows, four on each side, are finished with inside blinds, and the room is lighted at night by four large and two small chandeliers. A stairway from this floor leads to the gallery over the front anterooms, and others again to a still higher room finished in the tower, and yet others to a deck at top of tower roof which is covered with copper. All ridges are covered with cast-iron crestings, and the tower deck with an iron balustrade.

A tower, eighteen feet square, stands at the left front corner, the main building without tower or projections being 48x80 feet, and standing sideways to the main street. The tower continues a proper height above the main roof, is surmounted by

a lofty roof of its own, and terminates with the observatory deck before named. The store fronts are between the tower and a projecting wing frontward on the right hand corner. This wing is finished with a steep roof, showing a well decorated timbered gable, etc. Ample provisions have been made in the hall for water closets at each end of the building, and all possible convenience for making the building thoroughly constructed in every part and complete in all its appliances. The outside steps to the store on one end and Public Library and Selectmen's room on the other are of cast-iron, and the land about the building has been completely graded.

In a recess built for the purpose in the vestibule is a large and elaborately finished marble tablet, to the memory of Mr. Chenery, the donor of the original building. The tablet bears the following inscription :—

DEDICATED  
BY HIS FELLOW TOWNSMEN  
TO THE  
MEMORY OF GEORGE W. CHENERY,  
THROUGH WHOSE  
LIBERALITY THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED,  
A. D. MDCCCLXXII.  

---

G. W. C.

Born March 4, 1826.

Died June 28, 1866.

*"Semper Honorandus Apud Posteror."*

SUPPLEMENT.





## SUPPLEMENT.

The following papers will sufficiently explain the necessary enlargement of this little volume. The several parts were performed according to the "Order of Exercises" herewith given.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

AT THE

RE-DEDICATION

OF THE

TOWN HALL, MEDFIELD,

NOVEMBER 2, 1874.



MUSIC.

MEDFIELD CORNET BAND, WM. R. SMITH, Leader.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

CHARLES HAMANT, Esq., President of the Day.

REMARKS.

Rev. J. M. R. EATON.

Delivery of the Keys, by J. B. HALE, Esq., Chairman of the Building Committee, and Reception of the Same, by Rev. C. C.

SEWALL, in behalf of the Citizens of the Town.

## MUSIC.

## DEDICATORY PRAYER.

Rev. C. C. SEWALL.

## ADDRESS.

ROBERT R. BISHOP, Esq., of Newton, formerly of Medfield.

## MUSIC.

## REMARKS FROM OTHERS PRESENT.

## SINGING.

Hymn written by the Rev. C. C. SEWALL for the occasion.

Father ! we mark the evidence,  
 On whom our hopes depend ; —  
 The witness of Thy providence,  
 Whose goodness hath no end.

The hope, once cherished without fear,  
 Delusive proved and vain ;  
 But now we gladly gather here  
 To testify again

The gratitude we owe to Thee,  
 Who hath our hope renewed ;  
 Reminding us, where that must be,  
 No change can e'er delude.

O, hear the trustful, earnest quest,  
 We breathe, in faith, to Thee,  
 That on this house Thy blessing rest ;  
 And grant it long to be

A monument of deep-felt sense  
 Of duty to the name  
 Of him,\* from whose munificence,  
 The gift we treasure. came ;

And long the heart of youth allure  
 To seek enduring fame  
 In knowledge, truth, and virtue pure,  
 And win a deathless name.

## BENEDICTION.

Rev. A. M. CRANE.

\*George W. Chenery.

After music by the band, CHARLES HAMANT, Esq., President of the day, made the following remarks.

REMARKS BY CHARLES HAMANT, ESQ.

*Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

On the 10th day of September, a little more than two years since, we were assembled, in a beautiful, attractive, and convenient building for the purposes for which it was intended, erected upon this spot by the liberality of one of the noble sons of this ancient town, whose memory we cherish and honor to-day as then; and now, for similar purposes, and with ever grateful remembrances, we would have our thoughts and feelings in unison with the occasion.

On the morning of the 8th day of January last, while our citizens were in deepest sleep, the terrifying alarm of *Fire* resounded through the streets of our village, arousing us only to painfully witness the total destruction of the beautiful edifice which we had with justifiable pride and pleasure so dedicated.

Those who witnessed the rapidity with which the destructive element performed its work, the flames simultaneously leaping and shooting from roof, tower, and every window of the structure; and finally the crash, as one after another of the walls yielded and fell,—can never forget the scenes of that dismal night. Men stood as if paralyzed, powerless to stay the work of destruction, which was complete,—involving, it is believed, a greater loss of property than the aggregate, since the memorable historic conflagration of 1676.

Resolution soon took the place of despondency; some of the highest feelings of our nature were quickened, and sympathy was aroused to activity, in partially supplying the personal losses of some of our citizens who had suffered. A call for a meeting of

the town was promptly made, and, with feelings of pride and satisfaction, we bear testimony to-day to the entire unanimity with which the assembled voters at that meeting enthusiastically responded in the affirmative to the question, "Shall we rebuild?" The subsequent proceedings were in harmony with the spirit of this meeting. The committee appointed by the town at once and energetically went forward with the work confided to them, and how faithfully and well they have executed the trust, let these walls silently, but eloquently, speak. This beautiful edifice has, phoenix-like, arisen from the ashes of the former structure, and we are here on this delightful autumnal day to re-dedicate to the public use the grand and beautiful building in which we are assembled; and long may it proudly stand, as a memorial of the noble spirit which gave it birth; of him who has passed the dark vale to brighter scenes beyond; to gladden the hearts of the aged, whose sun is fast descending to the west; and animate all to the practice of those virtues which are indispensable conditions of social and individual security and happiness; and remind us—

" . . . the life of Heaven above  
Springs from the life below."

Remarks were then made by Rev. J. M. R. EATON, welcoming citizens and invited guests to the Hall and the occasion, following which was an address by J. B. HALE, Esq., on delivering the keys.

ADDRESS BY J. B. HALE, ESQ.

*Mr. President and Fellow-Citizens:—*

You can all recall the sad 8th of January last, when we found our beautiful Town Hall, that we had taken so much pride in, reduced to ashes, together with the public library, fire apparatus complete, and a new hearse, totally destroyed, and with only a

partial insurance on the building. Our first thought was that the loss was irreparable. But a few days elapsed before there was a feeling developed that as the building had been a gift we were morally bound to restore it in all its beauty and usefulness, and at a town meeting, called the 24th of January, it was voted to rebuild the Town Hall.

A Committee was chosen, consisting of J. B. Hale, J. R. Cushman, D. D. Curtis, A. B. Parker and G. H. Ellis, to procure plans and estimates for the new building. February 7th, the Committee reported plans drawn by T. W. Silloway, with statement of estimated cost, and having had a short time for procuring plans it was voted to extend time for the report of the committee to the day of the annual town meeting. Six plans were presented March 2d.

*Voted* — To accept and adopt the plans of a town-hall offered by T. W. Silloway, of Boston, at an estimated cost of \$18,000, including *débris* of former building.

*Voted* — To choose J. B. Hale, J. R. Cushman, D. D. Curtis, A. B. Parker and George H. Ellis to be the Building Committee.

*Voted* — That said committee be authorized to contract with responsible and competent builders to build the Town Hall.

*Voted* — The Building Committee be instructed not to exceed \$20,000 for the completion of the building.

August 29, 1874. — *Voted* — That the committee be authorized to expend a sum not exceeding \$1,200 in furnishing the building, exclusive of the Public Library, and for heating and lighting apparatus for the same.

The Trustees of the Public Library placed in our hands the fitting up and furnishing their room to be done substantially as it was before, and not to exceed \$500; afterwards they ordered a cabinet at an estimated expense of \$50, thus giving us \$550 for that department.

We have had most of that work done by the contractors of the building, and we now report the entire expense of the

library, fitting up and furnishing, at \$506.34, for which the proper vouchers are ready. With the \$1,200 for furnishing, heating, and lighting the rest of the building, we have procured everything deemed necessary in each department so far as our limited time would allow, not intending to overlook the smallest want, and the expense has been \$1,199.35, for which the proper vouchers are in hand.

For the construction of the building the architect commenced at once to carefully prepare drawings and specifications to the satisfaction of the Committee, and as soon as ready they were placed in the hands of responsible contractors. We had five competitors, to the lowest of which, Messrs. Mead, Mason & Co., of Boston, the contract was awarded for the sum of \$17,870.

In the course of erection various improvements have suggested themselves, some of which were so decidedly good that we have felt the necessity of adopting them, and by so doing incurred a further expense to the contractors of \$575.03. So the cost of construction is as follows, *vis*:—

Contract price,	\$17,870.00
Balance—extras, Mead, Mason & Co.,	544.00
“ “ Otis Wentworth,	31.03
Architect fees and expense,	642.00
Freight,	1.20
B. F. Crehore, iron work,	52.31
C. E. Kershaw, cell and vault doors,	190.00
Oiling building,	62.25
Stucco work,	120.00
L. J. Shepard, frescoing,	475.00
D. Hoisington,	10.75
R. W. Sherman, curb-stone work,	30.00
G. W. & F. Smith, iron steps,	250.00
W. F. Whittemore, painting,	9.75
J. B. Hale, balance over sale of old material,	35.46
	<hr/> \$20,323.75
We have drawn	20,000.00
Leaving unpaid	<hr/> \$323.75

We have also, at the earnest request of prominent citizens, ordered iron gates for vestibule, which will still be to pay for.

In closing our report, it is but justice to say if there is any credit in our work, we are largely indebted, first, to the architect, Mr. T. W. Silloway, of Boston, a gentleman of large experience, thoroughly competent in his profession, and a sound, practical adviser, who has entered heartily into the carrying out of our plans, and was, to all intents and purposes, an additional member of the Committee. We cheerfully commend his services to any one desiring an architect.

Messrs. Mead, Mason & Co., contractors, and Mr. Otis Wentworth, who assumed the contract for granite, brick, slate, marble, and iron work, and their efficient superintendents; also Mr. Shepard, whose frescoing has done so much to beautify the building—all have entered heartily into carrying out their contracts in a faithful and honorable manner, according to the specifications, and so lightening very much the duties of the Building Committee; and we recommend them with pleasure in their several spheres.

We are indebted to the Messrs. Harwood Brothers, of Bromfield Street, Boston, for a present of the elegant clock that helps so much to adorn our hall, and for locating it where it may be an admonition to all prosy occupants of this desk. And to D. D. Curtis, Esq., for a present of a fine eagle which adorns this end of the hall.

The Committee appointed some time since to procure a memorial tablet to the memory of George W. Chenery, have co-operated with the Building Committee by having it placed in position to be ready for this day. In delivering to you, as the representatives of the town, the keys to this building, and with them the responsibility which has rested upon us, we have endeavored to carry out the trust reposed in us, and earnestly



hope no faults will be found that shall seriously mar the enjoyment and possession of this building for the various uses for which it is intended.

Rev. C. C. SEWALL received the keys on behalf of the town, and made the following address.

ADDRESS BY REV. C. C. SEWALL.

*Mr. Chairman:—*

It is with no common pleasure that, in the name and as the representative of the citizens of Medfield, I am privileged to receive from you the keys of this building. I accept them as a symbol of the noble and generous bequest of our benefactor; intended by him as a means of providing better accommodations for the discharge of our civic and political duties, and for mental culture and social enjoyment. I accept them as a symbol, also, of a sacred trust committed to our keeping and care.

And it is, Sir, with even greater pleasure that I am permitted to thank you and your associates for the interest and pains you have taken to procure a tasteful and serviceable plan for the erection and interior arrangements of this building; and for your constant and faithful supervision of the construction of it. I am sure, Sir, that your fellow-citizens—one and all—recognize and appreciate these services, and are most heartily disposed to congratulate you and your associates upon the timely and entirely satisfactory completion of your labors.

The building is universally admitted to be superior to that, the place of which it takes, and the loss of which had been so severely felt and deeply regretted. It has been erected in accordance with the admirable plan of an architect, whose works display his superior taste and skill wherever they are seen; and with industry and faithfulness on the part of contractors and workmen, which deserve and command our grateful recognition.



Its interior adornments — alike most valuable and useful — bear testimony to the liberality of donors closely connected by family ties and associations with the people of the place.

And now, Sir, long after he who addresses you, and they in whose behalf I am speaking, shall have passed away from all earthly scenes, may this hall, in all its beauty, bear testimony to them who shall succeed us, of the appreciation and grateful acknowledgment of the services of yourself and your associates of the Building Committee, by the present citizens of Medfield.

These keys, as I have said, are a symbol of the trust which is now committed to us. That trust, Sir, we will faithfully keep. This beautiful hall reveals to us, and will speak to others, of the name and the liberality of our noble benefactor. His name you have inscribed on the tablet which meets the eye at the entrance of the building, and the beauty and perfection of which must strike every beholder. And, by God's blessing, we will transmit the building, uninjured, to future generations, with that tablet still bearing the memorial which we all feel to be most truly deserved : —

*"Semper honorandus apud posteros."*

An appropriate prayer of dedication was then offered by Rev. Mr. SEWALL, after which ROBERT R. BISHOP, Esq., delivered the following address.

#### ADDRESS BY ROBERT R. BISHOP, ESQ.

WE COME again, — in the beautiful Indian summer, when the forests are purple and gold, and the showers of their falling leaves carpet the earth, — we gather again, to open the doors of *this* hall. The fire has done its work. The beautiful structure which you had hoped to hand down to posterity is ashes. We come to find the legacy reproduced by faithful hands, in construction more thorough, with all known defects removed, as

artistic, as beautiful ; and we sincerely trust that if the youngest child in Medfield shall live to the age of our venerable friend whose chair to-day is vacant,\* or of the other venerable men whom I see before me, fathers of the town, whose lives have been its life, and whose biographies have been its history for so many years, the child shall die with its walls still standing, and its doors still open for the performance of the public duties of a free people.

So much was consumed ; so much has been restored. But all was not destroyed. What if the records had gone ! Thanks to a wooden safe, built when oak lumber was plenty and workmanship you may be sure was genuine and sincere,—thanks that it was not a modern contrivance with a coat of black paint to keep the fire out and a hole to let it in,—the records were not lost. The tale of the life of this town from the days of Ralph Wheelock to your own is still preserved and speaks from their pages. Do not forget that they contain the germ of all that makes us a free people. “Child of the Reformation,”—the historian says,—“Child of the Reformation, closely connected with the past centuries and with the greatest intellectual struggles of mankind, New England had been planted by enthusiasts who feared no sovereign but God.”† These enthusiasts were scattered all over the colony. Every little town bristled with them, and when the time for the great struggle came, turn back the leaves of your own records for a century to find how well your fathers comported with the grandeur of the occasion ; turn them back to find every principle of the Declaration of Independence previously asserted in your own town meetings ; turn them back to challenge attention to the eloquent, the fervid, the daring, the righteous and the prophetic language of the unknown draughtsman, which would have done honor to the pen of Joseph

\*The late Rev. Dr. Allen, of Northboro.

† Bancroft, Vol. 4, p. 151.

Warren or of Samuel Adams or of Josiah Quincy, Jr., and which the town voted should be "put upon file in the town records, as a memorial to ages yet unborn of the present generation's high sense of the importance of our natural and charter liberties." What if the train of unborn generations which was to read these words, with increasing awe as the ages pass, had been cut short on the morning of the eighth of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-four!

And if there were heroes in those days,—if they were your ancestors and mine,—what is the lesson which their lives teach? They show the true character of an American citizen, then, now, to the latest generation. Either we have no opportunities given us from God, or we ought to be ashamed of ourselves if, according to the measure of our opportunities and the character of our circumstances, we do not likewise prove ourselves faithful to the high trusts of men. It would indeed be an empty worship to bow at the shrine of the past and not to attempt to incorporate into our own characters its strength and truth. In the comparison I am ashamed to walk the same streets, to look upon the same landscape, to have derived my existence from the same spot, if I emulate not the same qualities. To-day we come into this hall for the formal and congratulatory exercises of its opening; to-morrow\* you will occupy it for a far more important purpose. See to it, that as the liberties of the country were born of the vigilance of the people in their town-meetings, they be not lost by their neglect.

The present danger is not an open one; it is as insidious as it is dangerous. The danger to the country now takes the form either of corruption or of indifference. And these evils usually go hand in hand. Did you ever observe it? the best men usually aid the worst men, until the best men wake up.

\* The day of the annual election.

Then they crush the worst men, and then go to sleep again; and the rascal comes again, and makes a trade of the virtue he claims to have, and gets elected. Thus the best play into the hands of the worst. There is no sight so pitiful as men of the best purposes and motives led captive at the will of a charlatan, unaware of his wiles, unconscious of his power, beguiled by his parade of virtue. The vice of modern times,—glitter for gold, pretence for reality, profession for principle,—wins the victory if you are not ever on the alert. No wonder that character shrinks from a contest, and propriety even from contact, with the worst element in politics. No wonder that all the better elements of our nature turn with aversion from the field where public office is sought for private advantage, and the high motives which ought to animate a public servant give place to the basest. But remember that the fate of the country depends upon whether true men abandon the active field. Will you accomplish the purpose of dishonest politicians by allowing them alone to attend to the concerns of the public? In the consequences I know not which is the worst, the corrupt politician seeking place, or the man who from whatever motive,—distaste, indifference, or sentimentality,—mistakes his duty so far that he will have nothing to do with public affairs. Therefore I appeal—I instinctively appeal—to the men of this town to attend to the duties for the performance of which this hall is provided. Be citizens. Be vigilant citizens. Never seek the power of office; never avoid the responsibilities of men!

“Of what avail is plough, or sail,  
If freedom fail!”

And if you differ from me in my estimate of the importance of this subject,—if you think attention to these duties may be excused, and especially in a small town,—there is one question

which I wish to ask. In the year eighteen hundred and fifty-one, this town chose as its representative to the General Court a man, who, throughout the great contest as to who should be the successor of Daniel Webster in the Senate of the United States, voted, steadily and continuously, at every ballot from the beginning to the end, for Charles Sumner. He was never absent, he never wavered; the roll-call still shows his name. And when after the lapse of nearly three months from the beginning, on the twenty-sixth ballot, Charles Sumner was elected by precisely the requisite number of votes without a single vote to spare, he had the satisfaction of knowing that his fidelity had achieved the grand result. If this were now any question of party, — if there now remained any savor of party about it, — it would be in a high degree improper on this occasion to allude to it. But Charles Sumner, thank God, before he died had proved to the world how far he was beyond the domain of party. As in the light of history we look back upon that event, as no eye but a prophet's could then discern it, we say, It was the Providence of God; and my question is: Which of you will undertake to estimate the consequences to mankind if your representative in eighteen hundred and fifty-one had faltered in his course?

And thus, friends, as we dedicate this building, and bid welcome to it for all the future all good thoughts, all high aspirations, all fitting speech, all exhilarating song, decorous and enlivening festivities for youth, serious and grave affairs for men; we perform — is it not so? — the high work also of dedicating ourselves to the best in life; to the best in life, for life and forever; allegiance to the truth, in politics, morals, society; hatred of shams; a steady, undeviating purpose, and an unwavering faith. For as God lives, He crowns the work and never fails to set His seal upon the honest effort of the earnest soul. Thus shall we best thank the donor of this hall, — himself a vigilant

citizen, — himself an example both of the spirit of private rectitude and of public honor, — thank him with our lives, which are better than our words.

At the close of Mr. BISHOP's Address several gentlemen responded in earnest words appropriate to sentiments read by the President. Rev. J. H. WIGGIN, of Marlboro; Rev. Mr. CRANE, of Medfield; R. T. LOMBARD, Esq., of Medfield; J. B. HALE, Esq., of Medfield; GEORGE CUMMINGS, of Medfield; T. W. SILLOWAY, of Boston; N. T. ALLEN, of West Newton; R. R. BISHOP, Esq., of Newton; and W. H. BALDWIN, of Boston.

# A BRIEF SKETCH

OF THE

MINISTRY IN THE SEVERAL CHURCHES IN MEDFIELD.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This church was organized in the course of the year 1650. No more definite record of its organization remains. Rev. John Wilson, Jr., — son of Rev. John Wilson, first Pastor of the First Church in Charlestown, and afterwards first Pastor of the First Church in Boston — was installed first Pastor of the church, December, 1651. He was a member of the first class graduated at Harvard University, in 1642. He had been previously ordained and settled as Pastor of the First Church in Dorchester, and as *Coadjutor* of Rev. Richard Mather, *Teacher* of that church. He continued in the active and faithful discharge of his ministry in Medfield during forty years; preaching twice on the last Sabbath before his death, August 23, 1691.\*

Rev. Joseph Baxter was ordained Pastor, April 21, 1697. Eighty persons were then members of the church, and three hundred and seventy-one were added during his ministry. Mr. Baxter was widely known, and universally esteemed among the most influential ministers of the times.

Rev. Jonathan Townsend was received into the church and ordained Pastor, October 23, 1745. During his ministry — which terminated October 9, 1769 — sixty-four members were added to the church.

Rev. Thomas Prentiss, D.D., was admitted to full communion and ordained Pastor of the church, October 31, 1770. His character was highly esteemed, and his influence was extensively felt throughout this

\*“The first instance, as far as is known, of prayer at a funeral in Massachusetts, was at the burial of the Rev. William Adams, of Roxbury, August 19, 1685 when, as Judge Sewall noted in his Diary, ‘Mr. Wilson, of Medfield, prayed with the company before they went to the grave.’” — *Lechford's Plain Dealing*, p. 89.



community, and in all the neighboring churches. He died, universally beloved and lamented, February 28, 1814, in the sixty-seventh year of his age, and the forty-fourth of his ministry. One hundred and eighty-eight members were added to the church while he was its Pastor.

Rev. Daniel Clark Sanders, D.D.,—recently President of Vermont University, and, previously, Pastor of the Congregational Church in Vergennes, Vt.,—was unanimously invited to become Pastor, December 7, 1814, and was installed, May 24, 1815. Eighty-seven persons were then members of the church; and, during his ministry—which terminated, March 2, 1829—forty members were added.

The church continued united and in harmony until 1827. At this time the discussions and dissensions prevalent in the community, in relation to various points of doctrine and of church polity, were the occasion of much agitation and discord here. Several members of the church, together with the two Deacons, withdrew; and, impelled by their religious convictions, formed a Second Congregational Church and Society. During the ministry of Dr. Sanders, a large and flourishing Sunday School was formed, in 1818. This was one of the first Sunday Schools established in the vicinity. Stoves, for heating the meeting-house, were first introduced here in 1826.

Rev. James Augustus Kendall—son of Rev. James Kendall, D.D., of Plymouth, Mass.,—was admitted to full communion, and ordained Pastor of the church, November 10, 1830. He was dismissed, at his own request, June 26, 1837, and cordially recommended to the sympathy and fellowship of any church with which he might, in the providence of God, become connected. During his ministry twenty members were added to the church. The Church Covenant was simplified. A new Hymn Book, compiled by Rev. F. W. P. Greenwood, of Boston, was adopted.

During the interval between the dismissal of Mr. Kendall and the settlement of his successor, the meeting-house was remodeled, and thoroughly repaired. Its position was changed, a steeple erected, and a vestry added.

Rev. Charles Robinson, formerly Pastor of the Congregational Church in Eastport, Maine, and recently of the First Church in Groton, Mass., was installed Pastor, October 16, 1839. After an able and faithful ministry, during which twenty members were added to the church, he was dismissed, at his own request, October 16, 1850.

Rev. Rushton D. Burr was ordained Pastor of the church, January

12, 1853, and entered upon the work of his ministry with much zeal and industry. Having received a call to become Pastor of the Unitarian Church in Marietta, Ohio, his pastoral connection was dissolved, at his own request, September 6, 1857. During his ministry five members were added to the church.

Rev. Solon W. Bush — recently Pastor of the Unitarian Congregational Church in Burlington, Vt., — was installed Pastor, December 24, 1857. During his peaceful and efficient ministry twenty-three members were added to the church. He was dismissed, at his own request, in 1865, and became editor of the *Christian Register*, a weekly religious paper published in Boston; and is now acting Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Needham, Mass.

Rev. James H. Wiggin — recently Pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Marblehead, Mass., — was installed Pastor, October 6, 1867. During his ministry the plan was adopted of having only one sermon on Sunday, and this in the afternoon, preceded by the services of the Sunday School, which was systematized and enlarged, and made one of the most efficient and successful schools in the vicinity. Conference meetings were held on Sunday evenings, and a series of public lectures given during the winter. The prosperity of the church and the Sunday School was thought to exceed that of any former period of their history. Mr. Wiggin — having received a call to become Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Marlborough, Mass., — was dismissed, at his own request, March 1, 1873. During his efficient ministry fifteen members were added to the church. Repairs are now being made upon the church edifice, costing upwards of \$6,000.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

Nearly one hundred years after the settlement and incorporation of the town, a few persons — entertaining the sentiments and convictions of the Baptist denomination of Christians — began to hold meetings for separate religious worship. From this small nucleus proceeded, soon afterwards, a society of quite considerable numbers and strength. The first meeting-house was built in 1770. A church, consisting of twenty-nine members, was organized in 1776.

Rev. Mr. Gair — a member of the First Baptist Church in Boston, and a graduate of Brown University — was unanimously invited to become Pastor, August 25, 1776, and was ordained to that office, September 18, 1776. An extensive revival was enjoyed in 1778; during

which thirty-six members were added to the church. The society was also increased in like proportion, and then embraced, it was said, the greater part of the wealth and intelligence of the town.

This brightest period of its history was succeeded by many years of darkness and distress. The church was rent by controversies and discussions. Expectations—apparently well grounded—of a large pecuniary legacy were disappointed. So discouraging was the condition and prospect of affairs, that a meeting was called for the express purpose of dissolving the society. The completion of this purpose was happily, and, it would seem, providentially, prevented.

From the year 1808 preaching was constantly maintained.

In 1810, Rev. William Gammell was unanimously invited to become Pastor, and accepted the invitation. He possessed peculiar gifts for the ministry, and was popular and influential as a citizen. Under his pastoral care the church and society prospered. His resignation, in 1823, was much regretted by them, and by the community. He had baptized eighty-eight persons. After his removal, twenty-five members of the church—then residents of Dedham—withdraw, and formed an independent society there. The number remaining in the original church was now sixty-nine.

In 1824, Rev. J. Ballard was, by vote of the church, constituted Moderator of all future meetings. Without any more formal introduction to the pastoral office, he was very successful in the discharge of its duties for the space of about four years. The former prosperity of the church appeared to be returning when his removal again darkened the prospect.

The pulpit was now supplied, for several months, by Rev. J. A. Boswell.

In 1830, Rev. Moses Curtis became Pastor, by unanimous vote of the church. During his ministry, of about three years, the church was enlarged; but it also experienced seasons of great trial. He baptized twenty-three persons.

His immediate successor—Rev. Amos Lefavour—appears to have been a man of singular temperament, and of absurd pretensions. During the few months of his ministry, he was thought to have done all in his power to injure or destroy the church.

In 1834, Rev. Horatio Loring was unanimously invited to become Pastor of the church. He accepted the invitation: and, after a min-

istry of three years, the dissolution of his pastoral connection was universally regretted.

In 1838, the meeting-house now occupied by the society was built. It was dedicated on the third day of October, and the Rev. D. W. Phillips was, at the same time, ordained Pastor of the church. In 1841, a revival—resembling that in 1778—was enjoyed, and many were added to the church. In 1845, a season of severe trial was experienced. Throughout New England great moral and religious questions agitated the whole community, and the peace and union of many churches were nearly extinguished. From this tribulation the church in Medfield came out strong in harmony and brotherly love; and afterwards possessed a more commanding position and influence in the community than it had obtained at any previous period of its history. Mr. Phillips dissolved his pastoral connection in 1850.

He was immediately succeeded by Rev. George G. Fairbanks, who was settled in 1851, and continued Pastor of the church till 1855. During his very able ministry ten members were added to the church.

Rev. J. W. Lathrop became Pastor in 1856. His peaceful and faithful ministry continued till 1862, and sixty-three members were added to the church.

Rev. Amos Harris succeeded Mr. Lathrop. His ministry continued about three years, and twenty-four members were added to the church. Mr. Harris was held in highest esteem and affection by his flock, and in universal respect by the community. He was compelled, on account of failing health, to dissolve his pastoral connection, in 1865.

Rev. A. W. Carr—previously Pastor of the Baptist Church in Framingham—was the successor of Mr. Harris. During his ministry, which terminated in 1870, the society prospered, and twenty-eight members were added to the church.

Rev. A. M. Crane—a recent graduate of the Theological Institution at Newton—is the present Pastor of the church, and, by ability and fidelity in the discharge of the duties of his office, is winning universal respect and esteem.

During the year 1874, the house of worship was repaired and improved at an expense of \$12,575, one-half of the amount having been paid by Mr. George Cummings.

## SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Second Congregational Church was organized February 6, 1827, consisting of seventeen members.

Rev. Arthur Granger was installed Pastor, April 20, 1831. Previous to this time the church had received an accession of twenty-five members, and during his pastorate, which terminated August 27, 1832, twenty-four were added to the membership.

Rev. Walter Bidwell was installed Pastor, September 19, 1833, and dismissed April 18, 1836, having received twenty-two members.

Rev. Charles Walker was installed Pastor, June 21, 1827, dismissed, August 21, 1838.

Rev. John Ballard supplied the pulpit a year and a half, commencing September, 1838, and received five members.

From January, 1841, Rev. Moses G. Grosvenor supplied about the same length of time, and received to the church five members.

Rev. Thomas T. Richmond was installed Pastor, October 25, 1842, and dismissed, September 12, 1855. Thirty-four were added<sup>1</sup> to the church.

Rev. Andrew Bigelow, D.D., was installed Pastor, September 12, 1855, and dismissed, September 5, 1866, having received seventy-one members.

In April, 1867, Rev. Chester Bridgman was hired for one year, during which time he received ten persons to church fellowship.

Rev. J. M. R. Eaton, declining a call to settle, commenced his labors as acting Pastor in 1859. The present membership of the church is one hundred and four. During the year 1843 a chapel was built, the church repaired, and a new organ placed in it, at an expense of some over \$4,500, of which sum Mr. F. D. Ellis furnished about \$3,300.

It is obvious how exceedingly brief the settlements, and how unstable the condition, of the ministry during the last half century. The *ordination* of a Pastor is but rarely mentioned in the history of these churches during that period. Every Pastor of the Second Congregational Church, since its formation, has been *installed* into his office, having been previously settled elsewhere. The churches in Medfield do not present exceptional cases in this matter; and the fact proves how great a change has taken place in the ecclesiastical relations and in the religious sentiments of the community.

## FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The need of a well-organized Public Library, fully adapted to the growing wants of intelligent minds, had been long felt and remarked upon in the community. In view of the erection of a spacious and elegant Town Hall, the subject became more generally agitated, and awakened more intense interest and activity. Preparations were made by the ladies for a public Fair upon a large and generous plan,—the proceeds of which should be appropriated to the establishment of a library; and the sum of \$800 was obtained as the result of their exertions. A meeting of the citizens was held November 5, 1872, at which it was voted that a room in the Town Hall should be set apart and suitably furnished for the accommodation of a Public Library. A Board of Trustees was elected to manage and control said Library and all property belonging to it; to receive all gifts and bequests in aid of it, in trust for the town, and to allow the use and enjoyment of it to all the inhabitants of the town, under such rules, regulations and restrictions as said Trustees shall from time to time make concerning it. Whereupon, Deacon George Cummings, with characteristic liberality, offered to give \$500 in aid of the Library, as soon as it should be established; and also \$1,000, in addition, as soon as an equal sum should be made up by the citizens, for the like purpose. This offer was accepted, and a room was at once set apart and prepared for the accommodation of the Library. Deacon Cummings then proposed to enlarge his previous contribution of \$500, by adding \$300, in order to make it equal to the proceeds of the Fair. A committee was chosen to select and purchase books. Miss Mary A. Sewall was appointed Librarian. And on the 29th of March, 1873, the Library—consisting of two thousand volumes—was opened to the public, under suitable regulations. Books are taken and exchanged on the afternoon of Wednesday and the evening of Saturday, in each week.

We regard this Institution as of incalculable importance and worth to the community; and esteem it highly creditable to the taste and intelligence of the citizens, that it is so well appreciated and constantly used.\*

\* This Library was mostly destroyed by fire on the morning of January 8, 1874, since which time it has been partially replenished.



The Committee to whom was entrusted the care of the foregoing papers, and who were instructed by the town to have them printed, feel sure that they will be justified in preserving in this permanent form a record of the soldiers who so faithfully served their country in the late War of the Rebellion, enlisting into the service from the town of Medfield.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Mustered in.</i>	<i>Regiment.</i>	<i>Company.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Alexander Cameron.	Apr. 22, 1861.			July 22, 1861.	Corporal.
Caleb Howard.	May " "	4th.	F.	" "	Re-enlisted Sept. 28, 1861, Co. K., 23d Mass Inf., 1st Sergt. Dis. Nov. 3, 1863, disability. Re-enlisted, 2d Lieut., 36th U. S. C. T. Did not return.
Lucius W. Allen.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Lewis Goulding.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Perry Greene, Jr.	" "	"	"	" "	"
John A. Strang.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Allen A. Kingsbury.	" 23,	1st.	H.	May 28, 1864.	Re-enlisted Sept. 19, 1861, Co. A., 1st Mass, Cav. Died of wounds, June 17, 1863, at Allice, Va.; buried in Medfield.
Geo. O. Meacale.	" 25,	2d.	E.	" "	Killed Apr. 26, 1862, at Yorktown, Va.; buried in Medfield.
Joseph H. Morse.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Thomas E. Hunt.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Geo. W. Hunt.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Eugene Sumner.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Edward E. Ellis.	Sept. 28,	23d.	K.	Dec. 22, 1862.	Deserted.
Joseph Hurdy.	Oct. 31,	36th.	K.	Oct. 13, 1864.	Disability.
John Proctor.	Nov. 7,	23d.	D.	" "	Died July 27, 1864.
James Grinn.	Aug. 7, 1862.	33d.	K.	June 11, 1865.	Corporal.
David Mauey.	" "	"	H.	" "	Mar. 1866, exchanged prisoner.
Eben G. Baccock.	" "	"	"	" "	Corporal.
John B. Chevery.	" "	"	"	" "	Killed July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pa.; buried in Medfield.
Michael Grinn.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Willard K. Holbrook.	" "	"	"	" "	Killed Mar. 7, 1865, at Avery'sboro', N. C.
Daniel McMahon.	" "	"	"	" "	Killed Oct. 29, 1863, at Lookout Valley, Tenn.
Joseph Leaguski.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Wm. Veaton.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Thaddeus M. Turner.	Sept. 13,	"	"	" "	Died Dec. 8, 1864, at Richmond, Va.
Lewis H. Turner.	" "	42d.	B.	Aug. 20, 1863.	Sergeant.
Edward U. Sewall.	" "	"	"	" "	Corporal.
Frank Rhodes.	" "	"	"	" "	Corporal.
Geo. H. Bullard.	" "	"	"	" "	Corporal.
Geo. E. Clark.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Joseph Clark.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Geo. A. Morse.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Geo. H. Shumway.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Joseph Siedman.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Wm. H. Bullard.	" 20,	"	"	" "	"
Edmund L. Cheney.	" "	"	D.	" "	Re-enlisted Aug. 18, 1864, Co. K., 4th Reg. H. Art. Dis. July 8, 1865.
Geo. M. Fiske.	" "	"	"	" "	Captain. Nov. 11, 1862, Lieut. Col.
Henry Fiske.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Geo. H. Wright.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Jonathan G. Wright.	" "	"	"	" "	"
Albert S. Allen.	" 24,	"	"	" "	"
Marin Bailey, Jr.	Oct. 11,	43d.	A.	July 30, 1863.	"
John H. Parker.	Aug. 20, 1863.	9th.	C.	June 29, 1865.	Transferred June 9, 1864, to 32d Inf.



Watson Cooper.	Dec. 26, "	54th.	A.	Aug. 20, "	Disability.
Charles S. Snow.	Mar. 4, 1864.	59th.	G.	Jan. 3, "	"
John F. Harvey.	" "	"	"	July 30, "	Killed at Deep Run, Va.
Frank E. Morse.	Jan. 2, "	6th Conn.	C.	"	"
John G. Huison.	Aug. 17, "	2d H. Art.	E.	Sept. 3, "	"
Elakim Morse.	" 18, "	1st Bat. H. Art.	C.	Oct. 20, "	"
Fuller M. Babcock.	" 24, "	" "	K.	June 17, "	"
Ashbel F. Clark.	" 24, "	3d "	M.	" "	"
Geo. Miller.	Sept. 25, 1861.	1st Cav.	A.	Nov. 30, 1863.	Disability.
Cyrus D. Strang.	" 5, 1862.	" "	"	Killed.	"
Gabriel Surang.	" 31, 1861.	" "	"	Died Dec. 26, 1862, at Potomac Creek, Va.	"
James Ord.	Jan. 2, 1864.	1st Bat. Lt. Art.	D.	"	"
Oscar B. Bussey.	" 6, "	" "	"	Previously mustered in from Newton, Sept. 12, 1862.	Dis. June 18, 1863.
Nathan F. Harding.	" 11, "	" "	"	"	"
Newell T. Hunt.	" 6, "	Navy.	"	"	"
Stephen H. Berry.	"	"	"	"	"
Eleazer Johnson.	"	"	"	"	"
Lowell J. Southland.	Jan. 14, 1863.	9th U. S. Inf.	"	Enlisted Jan. 1, 1864. Died at Readville, Mass.	"
John Ord, Jr.	Dec. 5, 1864.	" 56th.	"	July 16, 1868.	"
Geo. E. Baker.*	" 14, "	"	H.	June 24, "	by order of War Dept.
Jarvis N. B. White.*	Feb. 13, 1865.	19th.	E.	May 17, "	26th Unattached Co. of Inf.
James Lennan.*	Aug. 19, 1864.	31 H. Art.	M.	June 30, "	as Choda.
Francis Knobel.*	Dec. 17, "	7th Bat. Lt. Art.	"	" 17, "	"
Reuben B. Stackpole.*	Jan. 2, 1865.	1st Bat. Frontier Cav.	"	Nov. 10, "	Killed Jan. 30, 1865.
Wm. Dunley.*	" 4, 1864.	21 Cav.	"	June 30, "	"
James O'Brien.*	" 4, "	4th Reg.	"	"	"
Aaron Yaugins.*	" 6, "	4th Cav.	"	"	"
Charles Lyons.	Dec. 14, "	1st Art.	"	"	"
Matthew Conover.*	" 13, "	7th Bat.	"	"	"
John Doherty.*	Feb. 15, 1865.	Navy.	"	"	"
John Fitch.*	"	"	"	"	"
Patrick Dunning.*	"	"	"	"	"
Lewis Baker.*	"	"	"	"	"
Alexander G. Cook.*	"	"	"	"	"
Thomas H. Andrews.*	"	"	"	"	"
James A. Michel.*	"	"	"	"	"

These four whose names follow were buried in Medfield, although not a part of the town's quota.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Mustered in.</i>	<i>Regiment.</i>	<i>Company.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
James P. Cheney.	July 12, 1861.				Corporal. Killed at Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863.
Richard Derby.	" 6, "	15th.	C.	Aug. 20, 1863	Captain. Killed at Antietam, Md., Sept. 17, 1862.
Henry J. Daniels.	Sept. 13, "	"	"	May 27, 1863.	Died Dec. 9, 1860 at Medfield.
Geo. W. Kingsbury.	Dec. 21, 1863	4th Cav.	B.	"	Died Aug. 18, 1866, at Dedham.
The town paid on account of the war.....					\$ 5,571.00
Individuals.....					4,923.45
Total.....					\$10,494.45
* Obtained as substitutes.					
† Bought at this date; when mustered in not known.					





















LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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